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I.G. FARBENINDUSTRIE

LEVERKUSEN 27 April 1945

War Dept. Combined Intelligence

Objectives Subcomm. Report # 31

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COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES  
SUB-COMMITTEE





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REPORT ON VISIT TO I.G.FARBENINDUSTRIE  
LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY

27 April 1945.

Reported by

MAYOR F. FOGLER  
CWS, HQ. ETOUSA

12 May 1945.

CIOS Black List Item - 8

Chemical Warfare

COMBINED INTELLIGENCE OBJECTIVES  
SUB-COMMITTEE  
G-2 DIVISION, SHAEF (Rear), APO 413

- 1 -

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Summary of Work.....	3
a. Charcoal impregnated with $\text{Na}_2\text{ZnO}_2$ against HCN.....	3
b. Charcoal impregnated with $\text{K}_2\text{S}$ and $\text{ZnCl}_2$ as a substitute for cocoanut charcoal....	3
c. Wood charcoal activated with steam.....	4
d. Reagents ordinarily used in German gas masks against certain gases.....	4
3. Recommendations.....	4

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- 2 -

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REPORT ON I.G. FARBENINDUSTRIE, A.G.  
LEVERKUSEN, GERMANY.

1. INTRODUCTION.

a. Dr. L. Klebert, Director of Inorganic Department of the I.G. at Leverkusen, and his specialist on charcoals, Dr. Doepke, were interviewed.

b. I.G. Leverkusen was probably the largest factor in the development of gas mask charcoals for the German Army. A large amount of research and engineering work was done and plants were built and operated at several places by personnel from Leverkusen. No attempt was made in this investigation to obtain all details on charcoal at Leverkusen and a large amount of information remains to be examined by specialists in this field.

2. SUMMARY OF WORK.

a. On a basis of analysis of charcoal from gas masks captured from the Russians, they found it had been impregnated with  $\text{Na}_2\text{ZnO}_2$  against  $\text{HCN}$ . This led them to believe that the Russians expected to use  $\text{HCN}$  which they (Germany) had believed impractical on account of its low density. As a result, intensive work was started on this problem and a small plant for impregnating charcoal with  $\text{Na}_2\text{ZnO}_2$  was built at Leverkusen and operated under the supervision of Dr. Doepke. This plant produced about 200 tons of charcoal. The information thus developed was used for construction of a larger plant at Fürstenwalde, capacity 90 tons per month. This plant operated at capacity from time of completion sometime in 1943 until its capture by the Russians. Dr. Doepke also had charge of this operation and moved out ahead of the Russians.

b. Because charcoal of the type obtainable from cocoanut shells was not available in sufficient amounts, work was done on development of satisfactory substitutes. One of the more successful developments was made by use of peat, two types being made from this material. In one, peat was impregnated with  $\text{K}_2\text{S}$  and in the other with  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ . Plants were built at Primnitz for both of these processes. The one for  $\text{K}_2\text{S}$  had a capacity of 70 tons per month and that for  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  a capacity of 45 tons



per month. In addition, a plant was built at Langalsheim near Gaslar on Harz with capacity of 150 tons per month of the peat plus  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  product.

c. Wood charcoal finely ground, pelleted, and activated with high pressure steam was also the subject of considerable development work and may have been produced in some quantity.

d. It was said that the German Army ordinarily used the following chemicals for impregnation of gas mask charcoals against the agents listed:-

$\text{CuSO}_4$	against	HCN
$\text{AgNO}_3$	"	$\text{AsH}_3$
Pyridine	"	CNCl

This, Dr. Klebert said, was representative of the practice by Allied Armies as well.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. An investigator thoroughly familiar with manufacture of charcoal for gas masks should visit Leverkusen, since there appears to be a large amount of information available. The plants at Fürstenwalde, Primnitz and Langalsheim should also be investigated.

MAYOR F. FOGLER,  
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